

Thursday, April 20, 1950

Radio 'Hams' All Over the World Rally to Cheer a Sick Little Boy

By DAVID RADBIL

A radio amateur in Massachusetts told one in Louisiana. A "ham" in Alaska listened in. And so the word spread.

That is why 9 year old Armand Schultz, 2916 S. Lenox st., in Milwaukee, has nearly 30,000 post cards to cheer him.

Armand is suffering from lymphatic leukemia, a dread and deadly disease. He has undergone protracted treatment, the latest of it at the Wisconsin General hospital, General hospital, Madison.

During his illness, Armand has been interested in the collecting of post cards. It is one of those interests so important to the well being of the chronically ill.

News of the child's hobby reached George Brown, a radio amateur of Providence, R. I. He mentioned it

to Harry Rex, jr., a "ham" who lives on Nantucket island, off the coast of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts to Alaska

Rex promised that he would spread the word among his "ham" contacts that a sick little boy wanted post cards.

He hooked up with a friend of his in West Monroe, La., and told him about Armand. A few minutes later, Rex got a call from Anchorage, Alaska, where a radio amateur had overheard the conversation. The Alaskan wanted Armand's address.

The globe circling "ham" chatter had started. Soon post cards and letters began pouring in.

A "ham" in Japan heard about Armand and sent him a QSL (radio "ham" acknowledgment card). Two magazines were sent by a radio amateur in Rhodesia, south Africa. A "ham" from Peru mailed his best wishes. So did others from Mexico, New Zealand, Alaska, Canal Zone, Panama, Canada and England.

The mail flooded in from radio amateurs all over the United States.

One man from Greenville, R. I., sent a collection of 1,700 post cards dating back to 1878. They included everything from love notes to notices of overdue bills.

A man from Fairview, Mass., sent

his entire collection of between 2,000 and 3,000 post cards.

A blind Nantucket musician, who is an avid "ham" listener, sent a post card in Braille, expressing his best wishes.

The governor of Rhode Island sent a message of best wishes and cheer.

Armand's grandfather built a special cabinet to hold the cards. They have overflowed this and hundreds stand in boxes on the floor.

Transmits His Thanks

To permit the boy to thank his "ham" friends, Armand was taken to the home of Fred H. Zolin, 2443 N. Cramer st., vice-president of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's club. There he took the microphone at Zolin's transmitter, W90NY, and talked to Rex.

Seeing Armand so interested in the broadcast, Zolin and his club arranged to have a short wave communication receiver installed in the Schultz home. Then they made Armand an honorary member of their organization, the oldest active radio club in the world.

One of Armand's biggest boosters is a bedridden "ham" in the east. He operates his set, placed just above his bed, with the one arm he can move.



—Ken Eggert

Because the word got around among radio hams all over the world that a sick boy needed cheering, Armand Schultz, 9, of 2916 S. Lenox st., a leukemia victim, has received some 30,000 post cards for his collection. Here he is shown with Fred H. Zolin, vice-president of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club, as he gave a message of thanks over Zolin's station, W90NY.